



California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) Frequently Asked Questions — FAQs

What is the CHSPE?

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. Eligible persons who pass the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the California State Board of Education. The test is given in English only.

Who may take the CHSPE?

You may take the CHSPE only if you meet one of the following requirements on the test date:

- You are at least 16 years old, or
- You have been enrolled in the tenth grade for one academic year or longer, or
- You will complete one academic year of enrollment in the tenth grade at the end of the semester during which the CHSPE administration will be conducted.

When can I take the CHSPE?

During the 2004-05 school year, the CHSPE will be offered on October 16, 2004, March 19, 2005, and June 25, 2005.

Where can I take the CHSPE?

There are over 70 test centers throughout California. Some counties do not include a test center and other counties have more than one test center. A list of the counties and test areas may be found in the Information Bulletin or at the <http://www.chspe.net> Web site.

How do I register for the CHSPE?

Individuals must complete and submit a CHSPE registration form with proof of eligibility and proper payment. Registration procedures and a registration form are located in the CHSPE Information Bulletin, which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.chspe.net> or by calling (866) 342-4773.

Where can I get more information on the CHSPE?

Go to the following Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/taltg/sp> or call (866) 342-4773.

How can the Certificate of Proficiency be used?

California law requires that the Certificate of Proficiency be equivalent to a high school diploma. A student who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified parental approval, leave high school early. The Certificate of Proficiency, however, is not equivalent to completing all course work required for regular graduation from high school. Speak to your school counselor to understand the benefits of the Certificate of Proficiency. If you are planning to continue your studies in a college or university, contact the admissions office so that you may understand its requirements and whether or not the CHSPE certificate will be accepted.

How are the General Educational Development (GED) tests different from the CHSPE?

To take the GED a person must be eighteen years old or, under certain circumstances, a seventeen-year old may qualify. The GED tests measure a student's knowledge in five different areas: language arts, reading; language arts, writing; mathematics; science; and social studies. The tests are given in English, Spanish, and French throughout the United States and in Canada. A High School Equivalency Certificate is issued. For more information on the GED, contact your local adult school, community college, or visit the GED Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/taltg/gd>.

How is the California High School Exit Exam different from the CHSPE?

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a high school graduation requirement for all public school students beginning in the 2005-2006 school year. The CAHSEE graduation requirement is mandated by California law and does not allow for students to leave high school early if they pass the CAHSEE. Students who pass the CAHSEE and want to graduate from high school also must meet all local and state graduation requirements. All California public school students must first take the CAHSEE in the tenth grade. For more information on the CAHSEE, speak to your school counselor and/or go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/taltg/hs>.



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California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE)

Information for individuals who want to leave high school early. Includes frequently asked questions, test dates and toll free number for assistance.

Please visit www.chspe.net (HTML; Outside Source) for information on CHSPE registration and requests for records.

[Test Administration Dates for the 2004-05 School Year](#)

[California Education Code Section 48412](#) (PDF; 12KB; 1p.)

[California Code of Regulations](#) (PDF; 14KB; 1p.)

Questions: chspe@cde.ca.gov | 866-342-4773

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California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 07, 2004

Internal Page ID: #12774

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